

VIETNAM COURIER

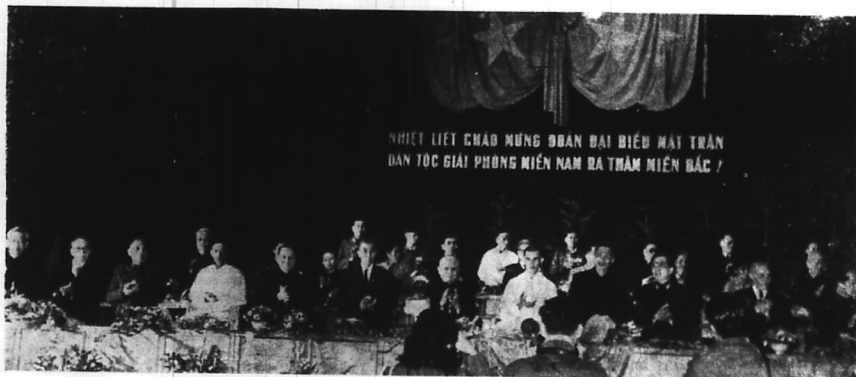
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WELCOME TO COMBATANTS FROM THE FRONTLINE

Report on the meeting in honour of the South
Viet Nam NFL Delegation visiting the North
(page 3)



THIỆT LIỆT CHÀO MỪNG ĐOÀN ĐẠI BIỂU MẶT TRÁN
ĐÂN TỘC GIẢI PHÓNG MIỀN NAM RA THÂN MIỀN BẮC

PRESIDIUM OF THE MEETING HELD IN HANOI IN HONOUR OF THE NFL DELEGATION VISITING NORTH VIET NAM
First row, from left to right: Nghiem Xuan Yen, Secretary General of the Democratic Party; Phan Ke Toai, Vice Premier; Nguyen Duy Trinh, member of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers' Party; Nguyen Van Ngai, NFL Delegation member; Trương Chinh, member of the Political Bureau of the FNVN; Mr. Phung Van Cung, head of the NFL Delegation; Ton Duc Thang, Vice President of the DRVN, President of the President of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front; Buddhist Superior Thich Thien Hào, NFL Delegation member; Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the FNVN; Prime Minister; General Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Political Bureau of the FNVN; Joseph Marie Ho Hue Ba, NFL Delegation member; Hoàng Quốc Việt, member of the Presidium of the Fatherland Front.

"To End the War, the Crucial Problem Is that of Total and Unconditional With- drawal of US and Satellite Troops from South Viet Nam"

DRVN Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister's answer

NGUUYEN DUY TRINH, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister of the DRVN, has accorded an interview to Georg Polzleit, West German journalist, Editor-in-Chief of the Bonner Korrespondenz, who recently visited the DRVN as member of a delegation of Communist leaders of the German Federal Republic. We publish below some of the questions and answers:

Question 1:

How do you evaluate the chances of positive results of the four-party Paris Conference on Viet Nam?

What are the conditions for re-establishing peace in Viet Nam?

Question 2:

What has motivated, in your opinion, the U.S. representative's proposal to discuss the "restoration of the demilitarized zone" and "concrete military questions"?

Answers to questions 1 and 2:

The purpose of the quadripartite Paris Conference on Viet Nam is to seek a political settlement of the Viet Nam question, put an end to the war and restore peace.

Who has sabotaged peace? Who has unleashed the war? It is the U.S. imperialists. They have sent from the other side of the Pacific over half a million expeditionary troops to invade Viet Nam. They have installed a corrupt and bellicose puppet administration as a tool to maintain their neo-colonialist regime in South Viet Nam.

To put an end to the war and restore peace, the U.S. must cease its aggression; it must give up definitively all encroachments on the sovereignty, and threats to the security of the DRVN, withdraw unconditionally all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, let the internal affairs of South Viet Nam be settled by the South Vietnamese people themselves in accordance with the Political Program of

the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation without foreign interference. The unification of Viet Nam must be left to the Vietnamese people in both zones, free from outside intervention.

That is the essence of the four points of the Government of the DRVN and the five points of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

That is the basis of a complete settlement guaranteeing the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, meeting the interests of the American people and safeguarding the honour of the U.S. as well as the interests of peace in South-East Asia and the world.

The U.S. representative at the quadripartite Paris Conference has been shirking the discussion of such a solution. He has been craftily asking to discuss first of all the restoration of the demilitarized zone "with a view to misleading public opinion on the origin of the war and on crucial problems to solve if the war is to be ended.

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PLAF OFFENSIVES UNABATED ACROSS SOUTH VIET NAM AFTER A FORTNIGHT

- ★ US 25th Infantry Division's Dong Du Base Wiped Out: 1,270 GIs Killed Or Wounded, 179 Vehicles and 39 Giant Helicopters and Planes Destroyed.
- ★ Second PLAF Double Win Northwest of Saigon at Tra Cao, in 48 Hours, 950 GI Casualties
- ★ 10,000 Tons of Munitions and 6 US Aircraft Blasted Near Qui Nhon.

On March 4, the People's Air Force knocked out a pilotless reconnaissance plane in Hanoi airspace, bringing the total US air losses over the DRVN since August 5, 1964 to

3,267

U.S. THREATS WON'T SHAKE OUR WILL TO FIGHT AND TO WIN

IN spite of the most strenuous precautionary measures taken by the U.S. command in Saigon, on the 27th day of the Lunar New Year (Feb. 22, 1969) powerful and perfectly executed assaults were mounted which nullified the immense capabilities of the people's patriotic war waged by our Saigon, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh troops against the invaders. They came as no surprise to any shrewd observer since these devastating blows, which are still raining, were but the continuation of successful actions staged in the course of the last few months in various theatres of operations throughout South Viet Nam. In the past year statistics themselves disclosed that U.S. casualty figures in January 1969 surpassed by far those of preceding months and showed an increase of 37 per cent compared with October 1968.

In face of the South Vietnamese patriots' action, Washington rulers' reaction only betrayed their after confusion. Clamorous that "a tacit understanding" between the DRVN and the USA in connection with L.B. Johnson's decision to cease all bombardments of North Viet Nam, on being violated, they are now even in threats to resume the war against the North. At these statements stirred up protest in the United States and the world over, the State Department spokesman Carl Hatch (State) said but in self-puff and said he could not affirm whether there was any violation of the tacit understanding. (USIS, Feb. 28.)

The fact, however, is that he was still clinging to the so-called existence of such an understanding, which did not fail to give rise to suspicions among public opinion, or the first place in the United States, Murray Marler, a Washington Post correspondent, reported on Feb. 27 that at a press conference by Carl Hatch, newsmen asked him for more clarification on the "tacit understanding" between North Viet Nam and the USA. All Carl Hatch could give as reply was to invite the pressmen to refer to "add documents". But, as was pointed out by Murray Marler, the only official text that can be referred to is the following passage in L.B. Johnson's Oct. 1968 speech: "We cannot have productive talks in an atmosphere where the cities are being shelled and where the demoralized one is being offered intelligence. It is clear that these words were but a unilateral statement which could not be taken as any bilateral agreement whatsoever."

The Nov. 2, 1968 statement of the DRVN Government unanimously pointed out that the U.S. creation of bombardment areas against the whole territory of the DRVN was unconditional, dismissing the current assistance of the White House and the State Department, the spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry on Feb. 28, 1969 again stressed, "The United States is acting as though an agreement had been reached between

the DRVN and itself regarding the cessation of the U.S. bombardments of North Viet Nam. In fact, it was the United States which, under the pretext of a 'tacit understanding', unconditionally stop the bombardments on the entire territory of the DRVN, and it has agreed with the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam to hold a quadripartite conference with a view to seeking a political solution to the Viet Nam problem."

AT his March 4, 1969 press conference, U.S. President Richard Nixon however returned to the myth of an "understanding" and went to the length of threatening again the Vietnamese people: "We will not tolerate a continuation of a violation of an understanding... An appropriate response to these attacks will be made if they continue."

Mr. Nixon should read once again this stern warning served him by the NFL: "The threats of the U.S. and its satellites will not shake the iron-like determination of the 14 million South Vietnamese to step up their armed resistance to U.S. aggression for national salvation till total victory" (Feb. 26 statement by the Commission for National Liberation of the NFL Central Committee).

This entirely legitimate position has received the

complete backing of the DRVN Government which made it unequivocally plain in the above-mentioned statement of the spokesman of its Foreign Ministry that "the South Vietnamese people have the right to fight against the U.S. aggressors at any place on Vietnamese territory and will fight on until not a single U.S. aggressor is left on Vietnamese soil. Such a right is the Vietnamese people's inalienable right to self-defence."

Mr. Nixon said he would "not tolerate a continuation of a violation of an understanding," but it is up to the 14 million South Vietnamese instead not to "tolerate" the U.S. imperialists' criminal acts. As a matter of fact, they have been meeting out due punishment to the latter.

NEITHER U.S. threats nor U.S. fabrication of a "tacit understanding" between the DRVN and the U.S. would serve the purpose of the aggressors. The only realistic way out for them is to cease their aggressive war against our people, to accept the total and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and to let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their own future according to the NFL Political Programme.

threatened to "crush" and the 14 million South Vietnamese forcibly herded in the Ba Lang An peninsula included in such destructive forces?"

Driven into a corner, the puppet spokesman could but lodge clumsily, "I request you not to go too far."

An American correspondent then brought him back to matters clearer in hand regarding some statements by the puppet delegation on the "legality" and "constitutionality" of their government.

He read aloud a speech by Senator Fulbright flaying the rigged elections in Saigon and asked the Saigon representative what he thought of it.

"I shall comment only on the view of governmental circles, not of private persons." This again triggered a stir among the attendance.

At the same meeting with the newsmen, the Saigon spokesman also exerted himself to distort a statement of Mr. Xuan Thuy.

"To day, Mr. Xuan Thuy admitted that North Viet Nam has a right to commit aggression against South Viet Nam," he asserted bluntly.

"And what did Mr. Xuan Thuy say actually?" queried immediately an AP correspondent.

PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM HOLDS Seventh Plenary Session

THE Paris Conference on Viet Nam held its 7th plenary session on March 6, 1969.

Taking the floor first, Mr. Tran Bau Kiem, head of the NFL delegation, pointed out that the U.S. representative at this Conference had only been trying to shirk with roundabouts the imperative demands of the South Viet Nam people. The Nixon administration, he said, while talking peace, has been continuing and even intensifying the aggressive war against South Viet Nam, accumulating innumerable crimes against its people. The Front's representative cited as examples the razing by air bombing of the Catholic village of Tam Hiep with a 2000 population on Feb. 23, 1966 and the massacre by U.S. "air cav." of 24 Catholics at My Thanh village, Long An province, on the night of Feb. 24, 1969.

He dismissed the "protests" by the U.S. puppets in connection with the current PLAF attacks throughout South Viet Nam, accumulating innumerable crimes against its people. The Front's representative cited as examples the razing by air bombing of the Catholic village of Tam Hiep with a 2000 population on Feb. 23, 1966 and the massacre by U.S. "air cav." of 24 Catholics at My Thanh village, Long An province, on the night of Feb. 24, 1969.

The NFL chief delegate again proved the soundness of the NFL Political programme.

(Continued page 7)

The spokesman, visibly embarrassed, rummaged in his file, consulted his assistant, then replied, "Mr. Xuan Thuy said this: The Vietnamese people are entitled to resist U.S. aggression on their national territory. That is their sacred right!"

A loud cry rose from the end of the room, "What he said is right."

A Hungarian correspondent asked, "And would you deny this right to the Vietnamese people?"

The puppet, pinned down hastily wound up the press conference to spare himself a difficult answer.

A few hours later, however, at his press conference the Saigon spokesman continued his habitual distortions of facts, commenting on the PLAF attacks against U.S. puppet positions in South Viet Nam. He affirmed, "The communists attacked the civilians."

But at the U.S. Delegation's own press conference in the same room in Segur Street, the American spokesman admitted that "the bulk of Viet Cong targets was military bases."

"A true slap in the puppets' face," said a correspondent from a Western news agency.

"I wonder how the representative of the Saigon

Welcome to Combatants from the Frontline

IN a moving mood, a meeting was held by the representatives of Hanoi citizens in honour of the visiting delegations of the South Viet Nam NFL. Present were Ton Duc Thang, Vice-President of the DRVN and President of the Presidium of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, many leaders of the U.S. and DRVN Government, representatives of main political parties and mass organizations and various religious communities as well as members of diplomatic corps and many foreign guests visiting the DRVN.

Welcoming the delegation on behalf of the people and armed forces of the capital, Dr. Tran Duc Hung, Head of the Hanoi Administrative Committee, underlined the blood relations which united the 17 million Northerners with their 14 million Southern compatriots, in particular the people of Hanoi Hue and Saigon, the 3 cities bound by ties of sworn brotherhood.

He warmly acclaimed the great achievements accomplished over the past years by our 14 million Southern compatriots under the clear-sighted leadership of the South Viet Nam NFL in the military, political and diplomatic fields. "It is clear, that the South Viet Nam NFL is fully competent to settle all problems concerning South Viet Nam," he concluded.

In reply, Dr. Phung Van Tung, head of the NFL delegation recalled these

historic words said by President Ho Chi Minh more than 20 years ago:

"South Viet Nam is blood of Viet Nam's blood, flesh of Viet Nam's flesh. Rivers may dry up and mountains wear out, but that truth decidedly will never change."

After expressing the gratitude of the South Vietnamese people and combatants towards President Ho Chi Minh, beloved leader of the entire Vietnamese nation, and towards the 17 million northern kith-and-kin, he gave the following appraisal of the situation.

"The situation in South Viet Nam is developing in favour of the South Viet Nam revolution. The South Viet Nam NFL is winning and holds the military initiative. It commands unqualified political and moral superiority over the enemy."

"The successes of strategic importance of the South Vietnamese people and the people throughout Viet Nam at the same time spell out the failure of strategy of the enemy. The fact that U.S. imperialism had to sue for peace, the restoration of peace, the removal of the Thieu-Ky-Huong war-like clique and the formation of a peace cabinet ready to enter into negotiations in good faith with the NFL."

Expressing the determination of the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam to fight until final victory, Dr. Phung Van Tung concluded his speech with this resolve.

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Representatives of Hanoi people welcoming the NFL delegation

"Restoration of Peace Would Mean End of Thieu-Ky-Huong Clique's Career"

(Statement by South Viet Nam Alliance)

Gall Phong Press Agency has just released a statement on Feb. 25 by the Central Committee of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces giving the Alliance's assessment of the present situation in South Viet Nam. It stated that the South Vietnamese people to overthrow the Thieu-Ky-Huong triumvirate.

The U.S. imperialists still continue to obstruct and have not given up their aggressive designs in spite of their repeated setbacks, the statement said. They are clinging to their agents in an attempt to achieve neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. They are prolonging the war and causing untold sufferings to the people especially to those living in the cities still under their control. That is why, vigorous actions have taken

place with the participation of students, workers, intellectuals, members of the national bourgeoisie and many civil servants and officers of the puppet army, for an end to the war, the restoration of peace, the removal of the Thieu-Ky-Huong war-like clique and the formation of a peace cabinet ready to enter into negotiations in good faith with the NFL.

The statement stressed that the U.S.-installed Thieu-Ky-Huong regime was identifying itself with the U.S. war of aggression in order to stay in power and get rich at the cost of the people's blood. No wonder it is afraid of peace since the restoration of peace would mean the end of its career. The more the movement against U.S. aggression and for peace grows, the more frantic the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration's

crack-down upon people becomes.

The statement pointed out that the people were determined to overthrow the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique and the formation of a peace cabinet ready to enter into negotiations in good faith with the NFL.

"The Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces is ready to join hands with all patriotic organizations and personalities, no matter what their political or religious leanings may be, including the civil servants and puppet officers who are against the aggressive war and support the slogans of the Alliance", the statement concluded.

PARTICIPATION OF NORTH VIET NAM WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Participation of women in State affairs:

- National Assembly Third Legislature: 14.5 per cent.
- Vice-President of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly: 1

- Provincial People's Committees: 35.2 per cent.
- Provincial Administrative Committees: 13 per cent.
- Vice-Chairman of provincial Administrative Committees: 8

- District People's Committees: 45.75 per cent.
- District Administrative Committees: 26.48 per cent.
- Chairman of District Administrative Committee: 20

- Vice-Chairmen of District Administrative Committees: 28

- Village People's Committees: 47.42 per cent.
- Village Administrative Committees: 32.74 per cent.
- Chairman of Village Administrative Committees: 16.9

- Vice-Chairmen of Village Administrative Committees: 4.68

Participation of women in agriculture:

- Women account for 35 per cent of the total number of the cadres, workers and State employees in various public services:

- Light Industry: 66.02 per cent

- Trade: 49.5 per cent
- Communications and Transport: 20 per cent
- Education: 12.6 per cent
- Public Health: 48 per cent

Participation of women in agricultural management:

- Chairman of Managerial Committees of agricultural co-operatives: 1,726

- Vice-Chairman of Managerial Committees: 7,983

- Heads of production teams: 18,649
- Members of Managerial Committees: 32,898 (figures available in only 20 provinces and city outskirts).

People's Air Force Hero Nguyen Van Bay and PLAF Hero Huynh Thuc Ba

U.S. AND PUPPET CRIMES

IN NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 1968
AND JANUARY 1969

IN SOUTH VIET NAM

In Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, terrorist raids were launched in November and December 1968 against the people of Phong Dien and Quang Dien districts (Thua Thien province) and Hai Lang and Trieu Phong districts (Quang Tri province); the enemy massacred over 1,000 civilians, burned thousands of houses and herded thousands of people into concentration camps, got out of the 46 villages in Cam Lu and Gio Linh districts were turned by bombs and toxic chemicals into no man's land and became "free bombing areas."

In Quang Nam province, U.S., puppet and South Korean troops killed 1,052 inhabitants and wounded thousands. At other places they destroyed over 2,500 houses and razed tens of villages and hamlets. In Dien Han district alone, from November 20 to December 9, 7,000 U.S. Marines supported by more than 50 planes of various types encircled and bombed an area of 32,000 sq. meters with a 7,000 population. They killed hundreds of people and concentrated 4,000 people, most of them women, children and old folk.

In Quang Ngai province, a large quantity of bombs and shells, including phosphorus shells and toxic gas bombs was used against the people of Hai Lang An village. From January 3 to 14, hundreds of civilians were killed. More than 11,000 inhabitants of the village including over 1,000 women and 7,000 children were tortured and penned in narrow and dirty concentration camps where the plague already carried off a number of children.

In Rach Gia province, from November 1 to 15, over 12,000, Thai Song, My Lai, Hon Me, Thon An, Vinh Thuan, Vinh Binh, Cas Nua and Chac Hung along the rivers of Cai Lon, Sao Duc, Ben Binh, etc., were "mopped up" by enemy troops. Over 4,000 houses were burnt, hundreds of kitchen gardens and many villages leveled to the ground.

From December 22, 1968 to January 6, 1969, U.S., puppet troops raided Vinh Thuan and An Bien districts (Rach Gia province), Ong Dat and Thon Binh districts (Ca Mau province). During their operation, B-52's flew hundreds of strikes, while artillery from units of the 7th Fleet and the military subsector of Thon Binh, Kien Mot and Vinh Thuan pounded the area day and night.

US. batteries of Kien Mot alone lobbed over 5,000 shells on a village with 2,000 people. Toxic gas bombs were dropped on an air raid shelters, killing a great number of women and children. Those who crept

out of their shelters were machine gunned by helicopters skimming over the ground.

Within a fortnight, over 50 inhabitants of the area, wounded, thousands of houses and more than 5,000 houses and much property of the people destroyed.

In Long An province, during the first ten days of November 1968, B-52's dropped in six attacks thousands of tons of bombs on villages in Ben Thu, Duc Hoa, and Duc Hue districts and along the Eastern Van Co river. Toward the end of the month, Duc Lap Ha village was flattened by 2 U.S. companies equipped with tanks and bulldozers.

On the afternoon of January 15, 1969, in the same province, U.S. soldiers of the 1st

Cavalry Division carried out a sweep in a hamlet in My Thanh Dong village, Duc Hue district, savagely killing a score of people in a few hours.

In Tra Vinh province, enemy "sweeps" mounted in November 1968 in Cang Long, Vung Liem, Tra On and Cang Khe district resulted in tons of thousands of houses, and many schools and pagodas burnt to ashes. More than 1,000 people were killed or wounded.

In the periphery of My Tho town, tens of thousands of houses were burnt and numerous orchards and market gardens devastated in November and December 1968. In Cai Lay district, on November 30 GI's laid Cai Lay township waste, killing 70 people.

According to AP on February 22, within two weeks last month, B-52's made 432 sorties and dropped 46,650 bombs on civilian quarters in South Viet Nam.

IN FEBRUARY 1969

IN SOUTH VIET NAM

The U.S. spent \$20 million more dollars on the supply of the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration with 300 modern helicopters UH-1 to carry raiding troops. The U.S. ordered its henchmen in Thailand to dispatch to South Viet Nam 1,500 more mercenaries.

The communique quoted AFP as reporting that on February 7, U.S. troops razed all villages in Ba Lang An area, Quang Ngai province, and arrested 11,476 persons.

Ba Lang An Massacres

On January, 5,000 GIs and puppet troops, under cover of 130 tanks, 80 helicopters, 18 cannon, 25 war vessels, and many combat launches, started an "accelerated pacification" on the area. The raiders gave free rein to their bestial instincts, burning, killing, raping.

A small hamlet inhabited by 18 families in Tinh Son village was pounded with helicopter rockets, starting on February 15, the enemy marched nearly 400 inhabitants of Phuoc Hoa hamlet to a bare hill which was then attacked with helicopter-firing rockets, to the victims were killed, 21 others seriously injured.

Most brutal of all was the massacre at Khanh My ham-

let where, on January 27, a platoon of GIs broke into houses and slew 15 inhabitants including a 60-year-old woman, and a mother with her two children. Most of these people had already known mourning; during a raid in 1967, Pak Jung Hi troops had killed several of their relatives.

The communique recalled the due punishment meted out by the local people and their armed forces to the criminals. It said that during the first ten days of the enemy operation, the guerrillas and local army killed 23 of the raiders and wounded hundreds of others. They also shot down 4 of the helicopters and shot 3 tanks, destroyed 10 military vehicles and captured 27 weapons.

IN NORTH VIETNAM

MEANWHILE in February, the U.S. used planes to spy over the DRVN and B-52 tactical and strategic planes and long range artillery pieces from the southern bank of the Ben Hai river and the 7th Fleet to bombard heavily populated areas in Quang Binh province and Vinh Binh area.

According to initial figures, U.S. aircraft conducted 320 sorties over the DRVN over almost all provinces and towns of the DRVN.

Vinh Binh alone was reconnoitered 140 times. On

February 14, 20 and 25 American planes on 8 occasions fired rockets and smoke shells on and bombed 8 spots in this area. On February 20, 9 U.S. planes attacked Huong Lap village, causing great losses in lives and property to the population.

Within two weeks in the month, the U.S. slammed nearly 300 artillery shells on 4 villages in Vinh Binh.

On February 10, 12 and 28, American jet fighters and B-52s rained carpet and demolition bombs on three areas of Quang Binh province.

AND IN EARLY MARCH 1969

ON March 5, 1969 the spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry again denounced the daily spy flights carried out by U.S. aircraft over the DRVN airspace. He also protested the

shelling on March 1, of Vinh Kiem of the village (in the area) by U.S. warships and the bombing on March 2 of many localities of Minh Hoa province, Quang Binh province.

Desertions and Disobedience Spread Among Puppet Troops

SINCE January 1969, bewilderment, desertion, war opposition and desertion have been rampant among the puppet army.

In Long Khanh province (Northwest of Saigon), from the beginning of January to mid-February this year, more than 1,200 officers and men of different services ranging from the main force units and rangers to regional troops deserted. Among the runaways, 50 belonged to puppet Infantry Division 18. Remarkably, puppet junior and senior officers of this division left their ranks (as the case of the major commanding Battalion 4 of Regiment 54).

In Tay Ninh, Gia Dinh, Long An and My Tho provinces Saigon area late in January and early in February, hundreds of officers and men of puppet main-force, Security Forces, Special Forces and men of Battalion 1 and Battalion 3, respectively of Regiments 49 and 50, puppet Infantry Division 25, Long An, 50 Security Forces men posted along Highway N4 (My Tho) and dozens of Security Forces men and civil guards in Northern

the Mekong Delta, from the beginning of January to mid-February this year, thousands of officers and men of the puppet army deserted or opposed war in the 4 provinces of Ben Tre, Chau Doc, Vinh Long and Rach Gia (Southeast and Southwest of Saigon).

Worthy of note were the anti-war action held by a battalion of puppet Infantry Division (comprising 210 officers and men) and the combat refusal on the occasion of Tet by 2 Security Forces companies stationed in Vinh Long (Feb. 16). In Rach Gia, in the first 10 days of February, 200 officers and men of Security Forces Companies 336 and 523, a company of "Combat Youth" and a civil-guard platoon turned in their weapons and returned to their families or joined the liberated zone to take part in the fight against U.S. aggressors. On Jan. 22, 2 Security Forces men in Vinh Long, infuriated by the attacks by U.S. helicopter gunships on civilian houses, shot and brought down one engine near the provincial capital.

In Chu Doc and Ben Tre provinces in January more than 500 members of the puppet Security Forces and civil-guard units left their units and returned to their families or joined the liberated zone.

In Ca Mau province dozens of officers and men broke away from the puppet

army when zoo of their relatives swarmed into the city and petitioned their commanders against sending them on raiding missions in the province.

In Muc-Hoa City (Kien-Tuong Province, North West of Saigon) on Feb. 19, a large number of patriotic army-men mutinied. They shot dead 2 U.S. advisers and 7 puppet regular troops and wounded 8 other cruel soldiers then joined the liberated zone with their weapons.

In South Central Viet Nam: following the disaster at Song Mao (North of Phan Thiet city) late in December last year and early in January this year, 300 puppet troops of main force Regiment 44 (mostly officers and men of Battalion 2) deserted. The remainder dropped their hair and firmly resisted marching orders.

In Ninh Thuan province, 105 men of regional forces stationed around Phan Rang city turned in their weapons and rejoined their families (Jan. 1969).

During January and early in February, many cases of war opposition, disobedience and desertion were successfully recorded in Gia Rai (Western Highlands). In January, many troops of Battalion 2, Regiment 42 went home as they refused to be sent as reinforcements for their battered fellows, and intelligence men gave up their assignment job and returned to the battalion's encampment. Late in January and early in February, hundreds of men of Ranger Battalions 22 and 23 disobeyed order, refusing a relief mission for beleaguered Battalion 1, Regiment 47 in the Chu Pa area, and 18 of them ran away.

In Southern Da Nang, in mid-January and early February, many anti-war actions were staged by puppet army-men stationed around Tam Ky and Hoi An cities. A 30-man civil guard platoon in Tam Ky city mutinied. The mutineers killed a commanding officer and 2 bullies and crossed over to the people's side along with their weapons.

In Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces in response to the call issued by officers and men of Division 1 who had broken away with the Saigon puppet administration, urging restoration of peace, removal of the Thieu-Ky-Huong-triangular and combat refusal, hundreds of army-men stationed in the capital of Quang Tri Province, Hue City and Trieu Phong, Huong Dien and Tay Loc district town (West and Northwest of Hue) abstained from a raid at Tet. Many of them deserted and joined the liberated zone to take part in revolutionary activities.

All the above-described occurrences tell of the low morale and widespread disruption of the puppet army. They show that the sense of national self-respect and the hatred of the U.S. aggressors and the Thieu-Ky-Huong traitorous clique are on the increase among the puppet army-men.

Such a situation is an inevitable sequence of the ever growing political influence of the NFL, the direct impact of the waves of general attacks and uprisings of the South VN revolutionary women and the total bankruptcy of US neo colonialism in South Viet Nam.

A Former Saigon Air Pilot Speaks

(The following lines are by HUYNH VU, a former Saigon air pilot who recently crossed over to the people's side)

I took part in many air raids which brought death and destruction to my native land. I feel shame and regret at the crimes I committed. Remorse, anguish and frustration gnaw at my conscience.

When, as a Saigon air pilot flying an American plane I saw ricefields ravaged by the tracks of American tanks, villages and hamlets burnt down by American bombs, girls offended by American soldiers, my heart bled. One day, on a flight from Dong Ha to Hue, from the cockpit of my plane I saw green lush rice ground to a pulp by caterpillars of American tanks; I could hardly bear it. How could one be indifferent before wounds inflicted on one's native land? I was flying an American plane and my salary was paid with American money. Deep down, a voice urged me to put an end to my criminal actions and return to my people. Love thy fatherland, the voice was telling me, hate the invader, so back to thy people and fight against the aggressor!

Whose voice was that? Was it the voice of patriotism, of national consciousness? I know not. The feeling was there deep in my heart but could not be analysed. It had roots in my childhood, when I was catching butterflies and flying kites in the fields. In my mind's eye I saw flowers and fruits and the still-laudable of rivers. I heard lullabies sung by the sweet voices of mothers:

Sleep, my child, Let mother go and carry rice supplies over hills and through forests. How remote was my childhood, how lonely was my simple life then. Mentally I heard the thumping of the little pounding rice late at night. I saw mothers hurrying along paddy dikes or wading in the mud of the fields. O Vietnamese mothers, so gentle, so hard-working, who have contributed so much to the long struggle against foreign aggression.

And now, they are still singing their children to sleep so that they may go and carry supplies for the Liberation troops! How sacred, how profound their love of the fatherland is!

I love my people. I love my country. I remember those who worked so hard to make it rich and beautiful. Old books and old poems arouse this deep feeling within myself, a feeling tempered by vicissitudes of our national history which abounds in examples of dauntlessness of our forefathers. The holy resistance wars waged by our people in the times of the Tran and the Le, in the days of Nguyen Huu,

that deep in those jungles people were marching and singing, resolved to win back independence and freedom for the country. They were the true heirs of our valiant ancestors. Determined to fight to the end, they made light of dangers and hardships.

We live in tunnels, feed on rice pressed into hard balls and drink sparingly from our flasks. We swear to fight the Yankee aggression.



Dr. Phung Van Cung, at present head of the NFL delegation visiting North Viet Nam, is shown here commending, on behalf of the NFL, CC, a representative of the patriotic officers and men of the puppet (Awarul) Regiment 1, after their successful withdrawal from Vinh, Dec. 2, 1968, in Thua Mot province.

When I reflect on it, I always shudder thinking that I could have lost my national feeling; this would have been as bad as losing my conscience. National consciousness is the mirror of the soul. It makes one love one's people. A breach in it would open the way for criminal behavior, for treason. When this happens, one should awaken as quickly as possible and mend one's way. My own experience as a former pilot in the puppet air squadron allows me to hope that many of my former comrades will soon leave the Americans and their puppets. Is there any true Vietnamese who does not feel anger and resentment at

the day when all strayed young men like myself awake to their sense of duty and come back to their people to fight against the invader, the wounds suffered by the fatherland will heal. The Americans and their satellites will be swept away all the more quickly, our people will suffer less bloodshed and our country will achieve peace, independence and reunification. Many men and officers of the Saigon army, unable to bear the recollection of shame, have untimed and crossed over to the people with arms and baggage. I Many pilots have escaped with their planes to foreign countries. I congratulate those men who have realized their mistakes and acted to set them right.

So long as Vietnamese blood flows in one's veins, so long as a Vietnamese soul dwells in one's body, sooner or later one will join the ranks of those who are fighting against the U.S. American aggressors to save the country. Such is the conclusion I draw from my own experience. There are a few exceptions, for instance the traitors Thieu-Ky-Huong, but they had sold their Vietnamese souls long ago already in the days of the French. They have human faces, but they have lost their human conscience. For privileges and money the Americans give them, they kill, torture, hit their compatriots and press the young into their army to serve as cannon fodder for their Yankee masters.

When I reflect on it, I always shudder thinking that I could have lost my national feeling; this would have been as bad as losing my conscience. National consciousness is the mirror of the soul. It makes one love one's people. A breach in it would open the way for criminal behavior, for treason. When this happens, one should awaken as quickly as possible and mend one's way. My own experience as a former pilot in the puppet air squadron allows me to hope that many of my former comrades will soon leave the Americans and their puppets. Is there any true Vietnamese who does not feel anger and resentment at

(Continued page 7)

VIET NAM AND THE WORLD

A Cambodian View

They Won't Be Through With It So Soon

(Excerpts from "Le Cambodge", Feb. 11, 1969)

THE U.S. proposal for a troops withdrawal is without any logical or juridical foundation. It is rather up to the U.S. to pull out all its forces from Viet Nam and not to the Vietnamese, whether they are of the North or of the NLF, for the simple reason that they are in their own country — Viet Nam. In invoking the "right to legitimate defence, confirmed by international law and the U.N. Charter" (sic!), to justify U.S. military presence in South Viet Nam, Mr. Cabot Lodge has not feared ridicule.

As for the Saigon "ally", Mr. Pham Dong Lam, he vies with his Washington counterpart in putting forward ludicrous proposals. Mr. Lam asks for too much and gives nothing in return. "Let North Viet Nam put

an end to the armed aggression, let it restore the status of the demilitarized zone, let it cease introducing men and material into the South, let it evacuate to the North "all armed forces", let it refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the South, let it respect the Geneva Agreements, let it accept an effective international control, let it... let..." Quite an endless list of demands (One has not finished having fun with him, because he has reaffirmed that in his eyes, the Paris conference is of "two sides", that of the "ag-

gressor" (North Viet Nam and NLF) and that of the "victim" of aggression", that is, Saigon and its allies. In dumping daily hundreds, even thousands of tons of bombs with giant B-52 bombers destined for nuclear warfare on an adversary with one hundred times less armament, the Americans pose as the "victim" whom one must pity. The world must turn topsy-turvy so that the words of the South Vietnamese chief delegate could make any sense (...)

Lastly, if the Cabot Lodge-Lam tandem persists in these preposterous proposals, it is still a long way before a negotiated settlement can be reached.

For his part, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, sees only one way for the Paris negotiations to achieve some result: unconditional withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam to let the Vietnamese people exercise their right to self-determination. Quite a number of public chiefs of State share the Prince's view.

What is your general appraisal of the current political and military situation in South Viet Nam and the determination of the entire Vietnamese people to continue their fight against the U.S. aggression? U.S. imperialism pursues its neo-colonial scheme against the Vietnamese people?

Total and Unconditional Withdrawal of U.S. and Satellite Troops from South Viet Nam.

(Continued from page 1)

It is necessary to make this clear: U.S. and satellite troops have been sent by air and by sea from U.S. territory and U.S. military bases in Asia and the Pacific to Viet Nam; so to end the war, the crucial problem is that of total and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

It is an urgent demand of the Vietnamese people and the peace- and justice-loving peoples the world over, including the progressive Americans.

It is precisely the question which should be discussed first at the Paris Conference. In trying to balk it, the U.S. has shown its obduracy and its lack of good faith in the search for a settlement of the Viet Nam issue and is preventing the Paris Conference from achieving positive results.

Question 3:

What is your general appraisal of the current political and military situation in South Viet Nam and the determination of the entire Vietnamese people to continue their fight against the U.S. aggression? U.S. imperialism pursues its neo-colonial scheme against the Vietnamese people?

Answer:

The general offensive and widespread uprisings of our Southern compatriots beginning in the spring of 1968 have brought about a dramatic change in the balance of forces in the South.

Militarily, the aggressive army of the U.S. imperialists more than half a million strong and the mercenary army of the puppets of more than half a million men have sustained heavy losses in lives and war means, and their combat efficiency has dropped visibly.

On the other hand, the armed South Vietnamese forces and people fight, the stronger they become, and they have brought the revolutionary war into the very heart of the enemy in the cities, forcing the aggressors into strategic passivity and onto the defensive on the whole battlefield of South Viet Nam.

Politically, the puppet administration and army — mainstay of the U.S. aggressor army — is on its way to collapse and disintegration. The aggressors and traitors have become completely isolated in the sea of people's war that has engulfed the political forces of our Southern compatriots have been growing quickly. National unity has become stronger and steadier with the coming into being of the Viet Nam People's National, Democratic and Peace Forces and the broadening of the mass organizations within the NLF. Revolutionary power has been set up in many areas. The liberated zone has been expanded and consolidated, covering four fifths of the territory, and as a result the bases and sources of manpower and material resources of the US in South Viet Nam have shrunk. In the areas temporarily controlled by the enemy especially in the big cities like Saigon, a powerful mass movement has emerged, which is militating for the overthrow of the Saigon puppet administration and the establishment of a peace cabinet with a view to settling the Viet Nam issue.

Since the opening of the four-party conference on Viet Nam there has been a rapid change in the balance of the world public opinion that the puppet administration and the NLF is the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people, qualified to settle all problems concerning South Viet Nam. These strides forwards of the South Vietnamese people in their

war of resistance and the victory of the North Vietnamese people against the war of destruction conducted by the US imperialists have forced the US authorities to de-escalate the war, to stop unconditionally the bombardments in the North and to sit with the NLF at the four-party Conference on Viet Nam. This represents a great gain for the Vietnamese people in both zones.

It is at the same time one for all fraternal and friendly peoples throughout the world including the people of the German Federal Republic.

However, the U.S. imperialists have not yet given up their aggressive designs. While at the Paris conference they are eluding the discussion of an all-round settlement of the Viet Nam problem, in South Viet Nam they are feverishly intensifying the war and scheming to prolong their military occupation, consolidate the puppet administration and to keep up puppet army in the hope of holding the South and prolonging the partition of Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese people are determined to foil the U.S. scheme. The delegation of the DRVN Government and that of the South Viet Nam National Liberation Front for Liberation have come to the Paris Conference to seek in earnest a settlement. The positions of the DRVN Government and the South Viet Nam NLF are very sensible and reasonable. Should the U.S. stubbornly refuse to settle the Viet Nam problem on the basis of the respect for the realization of national rights of the Vietnamese people, our people in the whole country, united as one man, are determined to translate into deeds these words of President Ho Chi Minh's: "So long as there is a single aggressor in our country, we must fight on to sweep him away. That is their legitimate right of self-defence unshakable will.

Welcome to Combatants from the Frontline

(Continued from page 3)

"For the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, and for the glorious future of the nation, for the liberation of the people now struggling against imperialism, and resolved to translate into deeds the appeal of the U.S. of the South Viet Nam NLF on the occasion of Tet (Lunar New Year) of Ky Dai, we must win at any price new and even greater successes in all fields, march forward to final victory and realise our objectives, namely, independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country.

Dr. Phung Van Cung presented the Hano people and armed forces with an American AR 15 gun captured by the Saigon armed forces during an attack on May 13, 1968, against U.S. troops on the Y shaped bridge in Saigon, and a set of photos.

Amidst a thunderous ovation, Dr. Tran Due Hien, handed on behalf of the Hano people, to the NLF delegation a banner embroidered with these words: "Of the same mind, both North and South Viet Nam are determined to defeat the U.S. aggressors."

Dr. Phung Van Cung presented the Hano people and armed forces with an American AR 15 gun captured by the Saigon armed forces during an attack on May 13, 1968, against U.S. troops on the Y shaped bridge in Saigon, and a set of photos.

A Former Saigon...

(continued from page 3)

the destruction inflicted on his native land by the American bombs?

Alas, my native land is no longer lush and green. American toxic chemicals have played havoc among fields and orchards, American bombs and shells have destroyed villages and hamlets. Our ache at this sight: The fields and forests are our flesh, the rivers and streams our blood. Every time we stand on this land, our forefathers' blood made to make it rich and beautiful. Every time we defend, heroes stood up to defeat it. After each of

these storms, the Vietnamese land grew even more magnificent. Right at present streams are flowing to the plains from the forests of the liberated area, bringing water springing from the depth of the land to heal the wounds caused by American bombs and shells. In the fields, so that they may grow green again with rice and our people's heroic resistance be carried through to a victorious end.

(1) Words from a song of the Liberation fighters.



No aerial can avoid punishment from the PLAF

LAOTIAN PATRIOTS INFLECT HEAVY LOSSES ON ENEMY AT NAKHANG

THE Laotian patriotic armed forces early on March 14 overran the U.S. "adviser" base at Nakhang, about 270 miles northeast of Vientiane, Khoun Phet, Laos reported.

Preliminary reports said many troops of the garrisoning battalion were killed or wounded and 30 others captured. The commander of the bandit forces in Sam Neua Province, Colonel Khamphou, was reported killed. Two Thai military personnel were among the casualties.

Since the fall of Pathi in the last dry season, the U.S.-backed bandits in Laos

had turned Nakhang, once a liberated area of the patriotic forces, into a major springboard for sabotage activities against the liberated areas of Xieng Khong and Sam Neua provinces. US "advisers" and Thai military personnel had been sent to beef up the defence of the base.

KPL, quoted Western sources as saying that the fall of Nakhang "is the heaviest defeat" suffered by the Laotian puppet army in Northern Laos "this year, and that with this failure, the US and puppets now face the problem of "regrouping and reorganizing almost the entire network of special forces in the area."

Nixon's European Tour

WEST EUROPE STRONGLY OPPOSES Nixon and U.S. aggression against Viet Nam

ists and supporting the resistance war of the Vietnamese against the Americans. On the night of February 24, 1969 over 1,000 demonstrators gathered in front of the Claridge Hotel, where Nixon was to stay. They threw milk bottles at Nixon's motorcade and obstructed its progress with dust bins.

In West Berlin two days before Nixon's visit, a more than 2,000 strong protest meeting was held at the Technical College. On February 27, 1969 when he arrived, hundreds of people turned out in the streets despite the police's ban and shouted anti-U.S. slogans. Leaflets were circulated denouncing the crimes of aggression drove into the centre of the city. Then they marched to

the U.S. Information Service building and splashed with dirt its front walls in protest against the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam.

about 7,000 students made for it shouting "Nixon go home!" then staged a sit-in.

The 40,000 armed police called in by the government were unable to prevent the students and people's actions.

Another demonstration tallying about 3,000 secondary school students occurred near the Sorbonne (college) and moved from there to the Saint Germain Avenue for a link-up with the former.

On the evening of March 1, 1969, in response to the appeal of the French Communist Party, the National Action Committee in Support of the Vietnamese People, the Communist Youth League, the Communist Student Federation and the Girls Federation, over 50,000 Parisians from all social strata gathered at the Republic Square then began a parade to oppose Nixon and support the Vietnamese people's fight against U.S. aggression.

On the evening of February 28, 1969, many delegations of the Paris Movement for Peace, the French Women's Union and the National Council for Peace called at the U.S. Embassy, and handed hundreds of resolutions demanding that Nixon recognize the independence of the Vietnamese people, U.S. imperialism get out of Viet Nam, "Independence, Freedom and Peace in Viet Nam", "Victory belongs to the Vietnamese people! Hundreds of thousands of anti-US leaflets were distributed along the Victory parade route pasted on the window-glasses of cars parked on both sides of the highway. The angry demonstrators burnt many U.S. flags, and Nixon's effigies.



Chilans youth in Santiago demonstrate against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam

Paris Conference on Viet Nam...

(Continued from page 2)

North Viet Nam. He also pushed Mr. Nixon's threats to the Vietnamese people. Emphasizing that the bombing halt was unconditional, he warned that the Vietnamese people would always be on their guard and would not yield to any punishment to any new reckless move by the US imperialists.

After expanding again in detail the Vietnamese people's righteous position as embodied in the DRVN's four points and NLF's five points, Mr. Xuan Thuy declared that if the U.S. refused to settle the key issues that is the total and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, an insistence on a "mutual withdrawal of

troops", that would only show its intention to confuse the aggressor, i.e. the United States, and the victim of aggression, i.e. the Vietnamese people, and to go ahead with its aggression against Viet Nam.

After a break, US representative Cabot Lodge took the floor and repeated his hackneyed slanders against the DRVN's four points and NLF's five points. He also repeated the accusation of "violation" by the DRVN of a "tacit understanding" between the DRVN and the USA and the threats launched by Nixon at his March 4 press conference. He clamoured about the neces-

sity of the "restoration of the DMZ" and "mutual withdrawal of foreign armed forces" etc...

The US representative was supported by the head of the Saigon administration's delegation who parroted his masters' false charges.

These US and puppet allegations were roundly rebutted by the representatives of the NLF and the DRVN. Said the latter in conclusion:

"The Vietnamese people are deeply attached to peace, but this peace must go hand in hand with independence and freedom. They are resolved to fight on until genuine independence, peace and freedom is recovered."

Military Operations

NEWS of PLAF attacks against enemy military bases, airfields, services and installations in cities and urban centres since the new Feb. 23 flare-up keeps flashing in and helps paint a more complete picture of this memorable post-Tet period. According to reports released by *Giut Phong* Press Agency, the patriots mounted offensives in 40 provinces and similar administrative divisions of South Viet Nam. Several hundred most important enemy military targets were hit. The U.S.-puppet hide-outs in 30 cities and provincial capitals including Da Nang, Saigon and Vung Tau, sustained damage and losses, often very serious, during the last week of February. Huge logistic bases, such as Cam Ranh, Long Binh, Chu Bi, Pleiku and Qui Nhon were in a blaze for hours, and hundreds of thousands of tons of fuel, munitions, armament and military equipment destroyed. Considerable damage was also done to huge air bases including Da Nang, Bien Hoa, Binh Thuy (Me-Kong Delta) Go Quang (near Qui Nhon), and Chu Lai.

In addition, many enemy H.Q.'s were completely or partly devastated, such as those of the puppet *Marine Corps and Police* in Saigon and of the U.S. *Infantry* in Long Binh, that of the 2nd Air Corps, those of at least 10 divisions and 3 brigades of the U.S. satellite and puppet forces, apart from numerous enemy *regiment and battalion* H.Q.'s. It is safe to say that the PLAF splendidly timed their blows and hit very hard home at the core points of the enemy war machine, causing him very heavy losses in men, material and technical war means.

Today, two weeks after the opening of these well-coordinated offensives, the PLAF, according to Western news agencies themselves, have shown no sign they are "out of breath". It is repeatedly claimed in the top brass offices of the top headquarters in Washington or in Saigon.

Following are the most remarkable developments of the past week reported by GFA:

Destruction of Dong Du Base.

THIS base of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division nicknamed "Tropic Lightening" situated near Cu Chi, 30 km northwest of Saigon came under a ground assault of the patriots at 2 a.m. Feb. 26, following a violent artillery barrage which hamstringing the defenders com-

pletely. The PLAF killed 850 G.I.'s, wounded 420 others, destroyed 179 vehicles including 39 tanks and armoured personnel carriers, and shot down or destroyed on the ground 39 aircraft mostly giant helicopters. They also reduced to rubble 16 blockhouses, 29 casemates, and burnt 4 arms depots including one containing rockets and one containing artillery shells, as well as a fuel dump and 82 barrack buildings. Fire raged on until 4 p.m. next day.

Another double win at Tra Cao.

THIS position held by a U.S. battalion and situated in the Saigon defence perimeter, 55 km to the North West, was taken on the night of Feb. 22 as reported in our last issue: 400 G.I.'s were killed or wounded. Another U.S. unit was later sent in to re-occupy the position the PLAF had abandoned after their victory. On the night of Feb. 21, the latter came back in strength and, after less than 2 hours of fighting, destroyed this new garrison, and caused another 450 G.I. casualties. The survivors hurriedly fled from Tra Cao.

This was the second "double win" of the area North of Saigon by the PLAF in this period. The first took place at on Trau, near Dan Tieng, at almost about the same time as that of Tra Cao: 2 U.S. battalions destroyed with about 1,000 G.I.'s killed or wounded.

At about 20 km farther to the Northwest of Tra Cao, near Trang Bang, the regional troops of the PLAF harassed the enemy without let-up and between Feb. 25 and March 2 put 900 enemy troops out of action, shot down 11 planes and helicopters, destroyed 38 vehicles and sank or burnt 4 vessels.

GFA further reported that in 4 other attacks on enemy river flotillas in this sector of Tay Ninh province, the PLAF sent to the bottom or set fire to 28 vessels and killed or wounded 380 U.S. puppets between Feb. 22 and Feb. 28.

Near Qui Nhon, 3 logistic bases destroyed.

ON the Western edge of Qui Nhon city (45 km Northeast of Saigon) on the night of Feb. 21, the patriots attacked 3 U.S. logistic bases. Thirteen storage depots were burnt, 10,000 tons of munitions were blasted, destroying 6 planes and helicopters. The explosions

rocked buildings in Qui Nhon for 12 hours on end.

Further South, the attack on the night of Feb. 22 against the rear base of Battalion 3, 506th Regiment, U.S. 101st Airborne Division, in Phan Thiet, 152 km East of Saigon (see our previous issue) lost the 3rd battalion and 2 artillery companies wiped out (500 G.I.'s killed or wounded) and 13 aircraft parked in this city's airfield, 12 cannons and a large number of vehicles destroyed. Enemy installations blazed for 8 hours.

Initial round-up

GFA has given an initial round-up of the 1st week of the post-Tet attacks in some sectors as follows:

Between Feb. 23 and Feb. 28, in the provinces of Central Trau Bn (stretching from Da Nang to Cam Ranh) the PLAF struck at 11 cities and provincial capitals, 30 districts towns and sub-sector H.Q.'s, 16 airfields and 13 logistic quarters. They inflicted on the enemy 7,500 casualties including 3,000 G.I.'s and South Korean mercenaries, destroyed or shot down 55 planes and helicopters, wrecked 150 vehicles and 40 cannons, sank or damaged 6 vessels, and burnt 15 million litres of petrol and hundreds of thousands of tons of munitions and military equipment. Tens of thousands of people rose up to punish local tyrants and disperse some too concentration camps.

In Central Nam Bo (provinces on the banks of the Mekong river branches) between Feb. 23 and Feb. 27, they assaulted 6 cities, 3 airfields and dozens of district towns or sub-sector H.Q.'s and put more than 3,000 adverse troops out of action.

SAIGON PUPPET REGIME BANS PEACE MUSIC

THE Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration has just issued an order banning the popularization and performance of Composer Trinh Cong Son's music on the ground of its "anti-war character and its 'peace' theme which make it 'unsuitable to the present political situation'". The Saigon correspondent of *Giut Phong* Press Agency reported. Order was also given to seize all Trinh Cong Son's compositions now being popularized under all forms.

Trinh Cong Son is author of about one hundred songs



The fuel depot at Dong Tam airfield (Binh Duc, My Tho Province) set afire by PLAF on the night of February 22, 1969

REVOLUTIONARY POWER SET UP IN PHU YEN

RECENTLY the NLF committee of Phu Yen province convened a political congress of representatives of district and village people's Revolutionary Committees to elect the provincial people's Revolutionary Committee. *Giut Phong* press agency reported.

In his political report to the congress, the Chairman of the provincial NLF committee reviewed the great accomplishments and the unprecedented growth of the Phu Yen armed forces and people over the past 14 years, especially the big leap forward of the political and armed struggle of the

local armed forces and people since last year's Tet general attacks and uprisings. The liberated areas have been built and consolidated and the popular movement has been developing vigorously and as a result People's Councils and People's Revolutionary Committees have been set up in a short time in 5 districts and many villages.

The newly-elected Committee declared liquidation of the puppet administration in the province and called on the local people to defend revolutionary power at all costs and implement all the policies laid down by it.

which vividly depict his country and people in the U.S. imperialists current war of aggression. Of late, he has published a set of 15 pieces of music voicing the people's aspiration for peace which has prompted the Saigon triumvirate's anti democratic decision.

This move which came after the closing down of 15 newspapers has stirred up a hornets' nest among the academic circles, newsmen, youth, students and other sections of the Saigon people, and among public servants, puppet soldiers and policemen

as well. Many people openly commented "The Thieu-Ky-Huong clique is so much afraid of peace that it even tears at peace paper peace doves and forbids peace songs."

"I'll go on with my work" Composer Trinh Cong Son said, challenging the measure. Many artists, intellectuals, students and youth have urged the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration to lift the ban on Trinh Cong Son's "peace" songs and demanded freedom of the press, freedom of opinion and freedom of artistic creation and performance.